

COUNTRY East Germany
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TOPIC General Military Information

EVALUATION see below PLACE OBTAINED 25X1A

25X1
DATE OF CONTENT

DATE OBTAINED DATE PREPARED 18 February 1953

REFERENCES 25X1

PAGES 2 ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE)

REMARKS

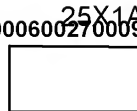
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


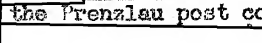
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1. On 24 and 28 January 1953, two troop trains carrying a total of about, 1,000 soldiers who wore black-bordered crimson or red-bordered black epaulets were unloaded at Schoenefeld airfield, Berlin-east. The troops were quartered in the former Diepensee repair shops on the south border of the airfield.¹
2. At 5:30 p.m. on 26 January, 14 factory-new trucks without numbers and escorted by personnel wearing red-bordered black epaulets were being unloaded at the Eberswalde railroad station.
3. Shipments unloaded at the Weisswasser railroad station included 4 T-34/85 tanks, on 21 January; and 9 T-34/85 tanks, 6 JS-3 tanks, 5 JSU-122 guns and 1 T-34/85 tank without turret, on 26 January. The shipments came from the direction of Cottbus. On 23 January, T-34/85 tanks were seen going to and returning from the Weisswasser troop training grounds.²
4. According to a local resident, four T-34 tanks and 110 troops were detained at the Weisswasser troop training grounds during the night of 21 January. On 22 and 23 January, tank firing practices were held at the training grounds between 10 a.m. and 3 p.m. At about 4 p.m. on 24 January, T-34 tanks were loaded on a train which left toward Cottbus.²
5. On 22 January, the Panzer Kaserne in Prenzlau was occupied to capacity. At about 3 p.m., 12 trucks were seen en route from the direction of Prenzlau toward Hassleben, southwest of Prenzlau. At 4:50 p.m., they were followed by five trucks. The trucks carried billeting equipment. At about 5 p.m., 12 trucks loaded with billeting equipment were seen on a dirt road, south of Ahlensmuehle, southeast of Templin, driving in a westerly direction. During the night of 29 January, intensive convoy traffic was observed on the autobahn toward Dresden and Berlin, near Gross Jehser, southwest of Luebbenau. Beginning 15 January, the Soviet autobahn guard detail at Gross Jehser numbered 20 men whereas 6 men previously had been observed there.³

CLASSIFICATION SECRET

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- 25X1A 1.  Comment. As it is not believed that the Schoenefeld airfield will be used as permanent quarters for Soviet troops, the 1,000 soldiers observed may have been transferred there to participate in an air transport practice.
2.  Comment. As the information by the two sources of paragraphs 3 and 4 confirm each other, it is believed that the 9th Mecz Div started tank firing practices at Weisswasser in mid-January 1953. Similar observations were also made at other training grounds in East Germany.
-  Comment. The information indicates no change in the occupation of the Prenzlau post compared with a report of mid-December 1952. See . The trucks seen en route toward the Templin troop training grounds probably belonged to units of the 25th Tank Div stationed in Prenzlau, which presumably participated in short-term tank firing practices at the training grounds. The unloading of tank details of the Fourth Mecz Army was observed in Templin on 18 January 1953.

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